DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 389 822 UD 030 742

TITLE	Making Children, Families, and Communities Safer from Violence.
INSTITUTION	National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC.
SPONS AGENCY	Department of Justice, Washington, DC. Bureau of Justice Assistance.
PUB DATE	Sep 95
NOTE	31p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Child Welfare; Community Involvement; *Crime; Parent Child Relationship; Parent Participation; *Prevention; *Safety; Urban Areas; *Urban Problems; *Violence

ABSTRACT

There is something everyone can do to combat violence. The highest priority is making oneself and one's family safer from violence. Parents should consider carefully about having weapons, especially firearms, in the home, since statistics show that a firearm in the home is more than forty times as likely to injure or kill a family member as to stop a crime. Parents should also talk with children about violence and reinforce nonviolent behaviors. Community involvement is critical to building a safer neighborhood. Acting in concert with public agencies, parents and community members can combat violence and encourage positive thoughts and actions among the young. By working on community anti-violence activities, people can emphasize prevention and plan for adequate services. Community partnerships reduce violence risks. A checklist for violence prevention and a sheet to create a list of link-ups and referrals are included. A list of 60 resource organizations is also provided. (SLD)

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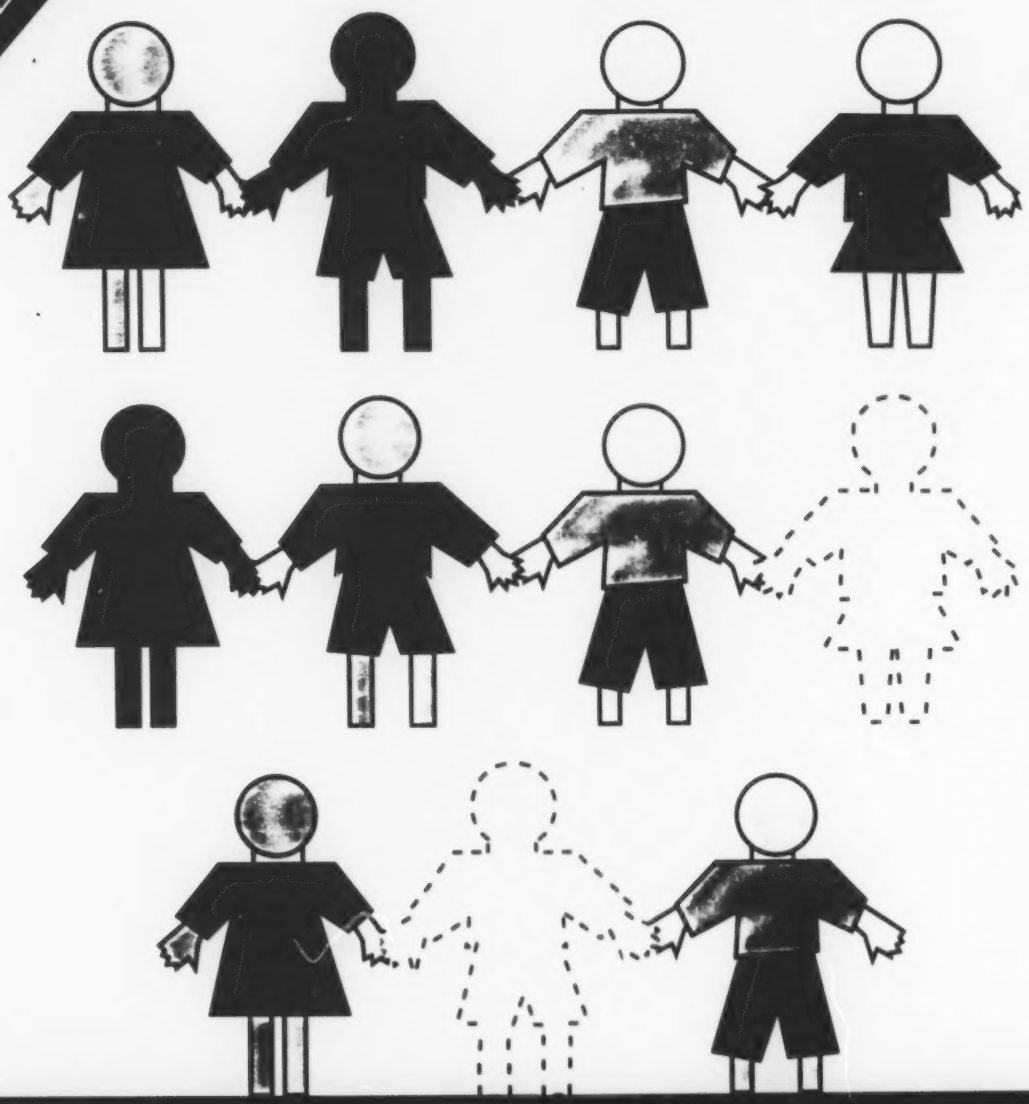

Making Children, Families, and Communities Safer From Violence

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BJA Publication Funded by
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs • U.S. Department of Justice

This publication was made possible through Cooperative Funding Agreement No. 92-DD-CX-K022 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Opinions are those of NCPC or cited sources and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Department of Justice policy or positions. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

The National Crime Prevention Council is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose principal mission is to enable people to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities. NCPC manages the McGruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" public service advertising campaign and other aspects of the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign including publications, training, and technical assistance. NCPC is the secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition, more than 130 national, federal, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

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Printed in the United States of America
September 1995

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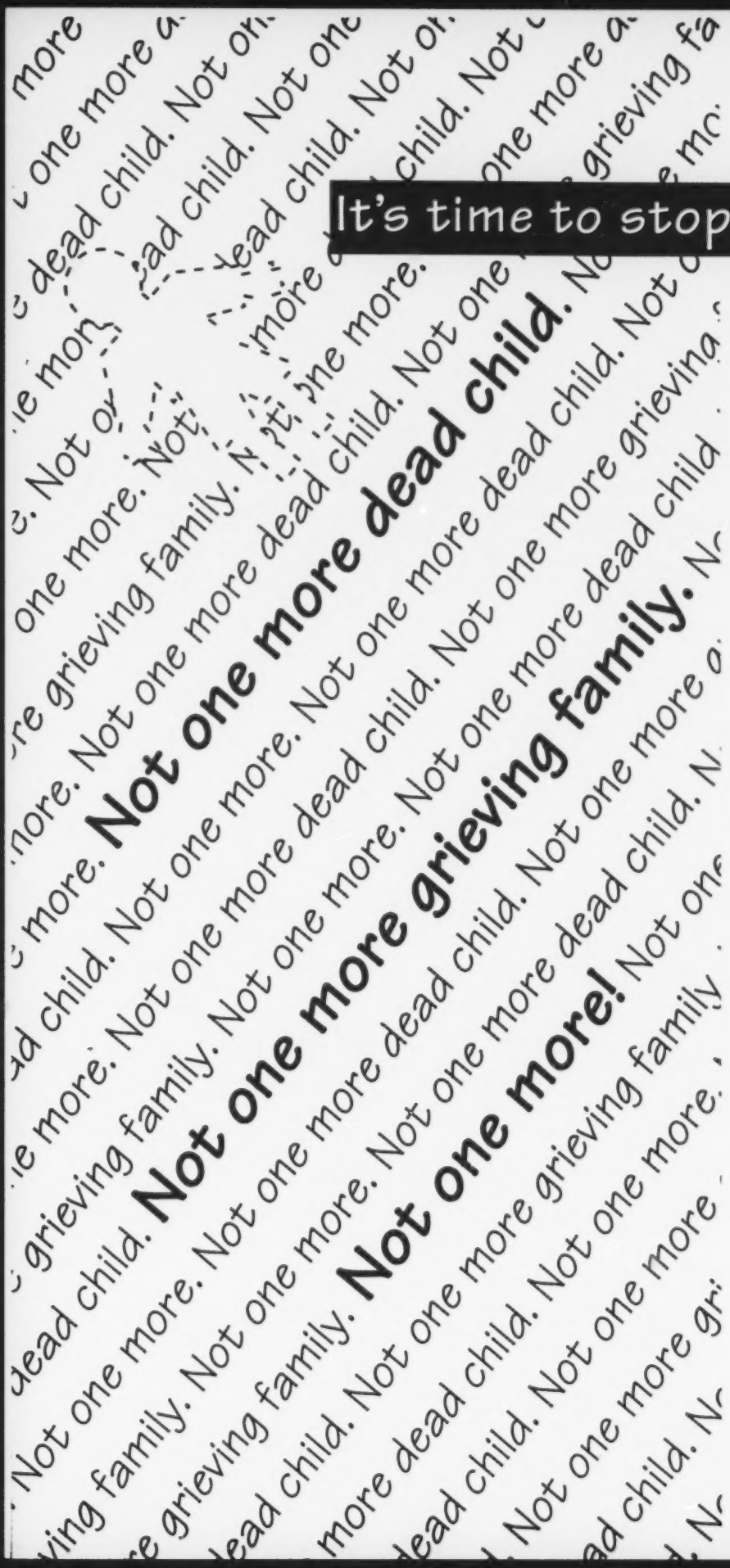
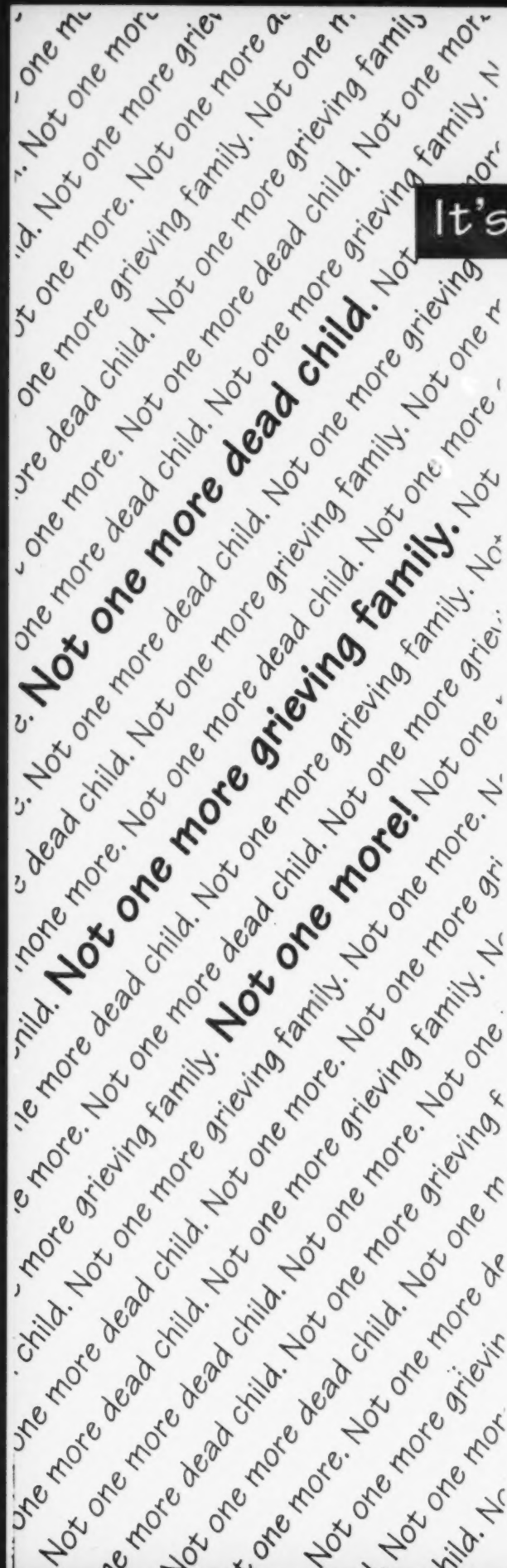
Washington, DC 20006-3817
202-466-6272



It's time to stop the violence . . .

That is killing our children and our communities. It's time to help each other build neighborhoods where each of us—kids, teens, adults—can feel safe and secure from crime. A tough task? Yes, but it's a challenge that each of us can do something about. We can reclaim our communities—child by child, family by family, neighborhood by neighborhood. This booklet explains some of the many ways you can help. You can do a lot in your home, in your neighborhood, and throughout your community.

Why accept this challenge? Because every child deserves a safe and healthy childhood. Because no community can afford the costs of violence. Because a healthier, safer community benefits each of us. Because failing to act costs lives and resources. Because our children should not have to raise their children amid violence. Because if we don't stop it, no one will.



It's everyone's business

Violence holds victims, families, friends, and neighborhoods hostage. It rips communities apart or prevents them from coming together. Violence takes many forms. Assaults, rapes, robberies, and homicides are directly violent, but crimes like burglary are often cloaked in violence and cause sometimes-paralyzing fear.

Violence is not just about attacks by strangers. In about half the rapes in this country, the rapist knew the victim. In more than half the murders, the murderer and victim knew each other. Assaults are more likely between people who know each other than between strangers. Domestic violence wrenches apart millions of families each year. Child abuse, overwhelmingly involving someone close to the child, hurts more than a million children a year. Only robberies more commonly involve strangers than acquaintances.

Weapons are part of the problem. They make violence more deadly and less personal. Nine out of ten murders involve a weapon; eight of ten involve a firearm. Most robberies involve the use of a weapon, most frequently a gun. One in five children has reported taking a weapon of some kind to school, most often for self-protection against others whom they believe have weapons.

But weapons are only part of the story. Attitudes, emotions, and reactions are just as important. Without working on all aspects of the issue, you can make only limited progress.

Why go beyond protecting yourself and your family? Because violence penetrates schools, workplaces, and public spaces. It sucks the life out of communities everywhere.

Even if you're safe from harm, violence still robs you. The costs of violence are enormous. The annual cost of caring for gunshot victims is more than $14 billion. The costs of private security measures, including those against violence, is estimated at $65 billion a year. Violent crime is responsible for much of the $90 billion a year it costs to run our criminal justice system.

Can we stop violence? Yes. Strictly enforced policies against weapons in schools have helped restore a sense of calm in many classrooms. Conflict management courses have taught elementary school children to fight less and negotiate more. Concerted community efforts have reduced or prevented gangs and the violence they bring.

But these things only happened because someone did something.

What you can do

ork with your family, in your neighborhood, and in your community. Pick a place to start where you are comfortable.

Recognize that violence has many causes. Some are immediate—a specific argument, easy availability of a weapon, a situation in which an aggressor thinks violence will bring quick rewards, an anger that sees no other outlet. Some are less direct — for example, a community tolerance of high violence levels, reinforced by news and entertainment media. Some are individual—inability to see another way to settle disagreements, for instance. Some involve situations—such as peer pressure that measures or boosts self-esteem through violence.

No one needs to confront all these aspects of violence at once. The point is, there's something *everyone* can do.

One city tackles youth, firearms, and violence

The residents of Seattle, Washington, led by their mayor, have launched a citywide campaign against violence. One key element is Partners Against Youth Violence—a coalition of more than two dozen agencies and organizations seeking "to prevent youth gun violence by educating the community, specifically young people and their parents, about the consequences of youth gun possession and related gun violence." Partners include a major local hospital, crisis clinics, school administrators, several civic and professional groups, the prosecutor's office, the City Council, the state medical association, and the police department's crime prevention, youth, D.A.R.E., and school safety units.

Buttressed by local statistics on youth homicides and gun-related injuries, the program points out that almost four of ten unnatural deaths among youth are from gunshot wounds, and that gunfire is the second-leading cause of death for area youth. The "Options, Choices, and Consequences" program has been developed using local statistics, local laws, and local experts to teach adults and teens the legal and medical consequences of illegal firearms possession and use. Several partner organizations are training community volunteers to conduct these programs.

The Police Department has agreed to strengthen investigation and prosecution of those suspected of selling guns illegally to youth; to investigate and help prosecute youth who illegally possess handguns; to support the youth and adult education programs; to build parent and community awareness of youth violence; and to dedicate extra prevention and enforcement efforts in parts of the city where levels of youth gun violence are high.

Washington State University has researched the violence issue on behalf of the partners and identified interventions and alternatives to violence that have proved effective elsewhere. Its findings supported the partners' approach of using multiple strategies—including school-based curriculum, outreach to parents, a media campaign, and firearms regulation and enforcement—with hard evidence.

By investing time in recruiting partner organizations, identifying local conditions and needs, researching effective approaches, and designing activities that invest partners and enlist even more members of the community—younger and older—Seattle has launched a thoughtful, tailored, flexible initiative to address a difficult problem.

Helping self and family

Making self and family safer from violence is, for most of us, the highest priority. Work with your own children, with other kids you care about, and with teens and adults you care about to reduce the risk that you or someone you love will fall victim to violence.

- Think long and hard about having weapons, especially firearms, in your home. Studies show that a firearm in the home is more than forty times as likely to hurt or kill a family member as to stop a crime. A gun in the home increases the likelihood of homicide three times and the likelihood of suicide five times. More than a quarter of a million firearms are stolen—and possibly used in other crimes—every year.
- If you do keep a firearm in your home,
  - Ensure that you are trained and that everyone else—adult and child—is fully trained in firearms safety. Refresh that training at least once a year.
  - Make certain that the weapon is safely stored—unloaded, trigger-locked, and in a locked gun case or pistol box, with ammunition separately locked and with different keys for all locks. Store keys out of reach of children, in locations away from weapons and ammunition.
  - Check frequently to make sure that storage is secure. Follow all federal, state, and local laws about storage, registration, carrying, and use.

Talking with children about violence

No one wants to see children victimized by violence. No one wants to see kids hurt others. Talking with your kids can be a powerful anti-violence weapon, especially when combined with your actions as a positive role model.

Make it clear that you do not approve of violence as a way to handle anger or solve problems. *Do your best to match your actions to your words.*

Start early. *Even very young children can learn not to hit, kick, or bite. Discipline without threatening violence. "Time outs," removal of privileges, restrictions, and similar penalties are successful, violence-free strategies that many parents have used, even with preschoolers.*

Use the world around you. *As children get older, help them learn to think about the real consequences of violent events and entertainment. Ask how else a conflict might have been settled, what the angry person might have done instead, what unseen or unspoken consequences violence might have.*

Listen carefully, openly, and constructively. *Letting children lay out their thoughts about violence helps them learn how to think through this and other issues.*

Sometimes it's difficult for adults to know how to react when children approach them about a real or possible danger. You may be a neighbor, an aunt or uncle, or a grown-up who happens to be nearby. Suddenly a child comes to tell you something's wrong. How can you handle it helpfully?

Listen carefully. *The child may be excited, nervous, or scared. Repeat what you've heard to make sure you understand clearly. Kneel down if necessary to communicate at the child's height.*

Take it seriously. *Children don't casually ask for help out of the blue. Even if it's not a serious problem to you, it probably is from the child's view.*

Act promptly. *If the child has found a weapon or a possible weapon or describes some other immediate danger, go to the scene at once, if you're not putting yourself at risk.*

Get help if necessary. *Call police if you find a weapon, even if it might be a toy. Call other professionals (such as fire department, child protection services, public works department) if the situation warrants. If it turns out to be a "false alarm," reassure the child that telling a grown-up was a smart thing to do.*

Honoring children's trust

- Make sure that your children know what to do if they ever find a firearm or something that might be a weapon—stop, don't touch, get away, and tell a trusted adult. The mini-poster on page 17 can help you teach these simple steps. Help children practice what to do. Remind them and review the lessons occasionally.
- Teach your children ways to handle conflicts and problems without using force. Act as a role model for them. Handle disagreements with other adults, including those close to you, in nonviolent ways. You can learn more by checking with your library, a school counselor, the pediatrician, mental health association, or neighborhood dispute resolution center.
- Discourage name-calling and teasing. These can easily get out of hand, moving all too quickly from "just words" to fists, knives, and even firearms. Teach children that bullying is wrong; help them learn to say "no" to bullies and to get adult help with the situation if need be. Remember that words can hurt as much as a fist.
- Take a hard look at what you, your family, and your friends watch and listen to for entertainment—from action movies to cop shows, from soap operas to situation comedies, from video games to music lyrics. What values are they teaching? Do they make violence appear exciting, humorous, or glamorous? How do characters solve problems? Are the real-life consequences of violence clear? Watch TV with your children; talk about how violence is handled in shows and what each of you did and didn't like. Set clear limits on viewing and provide active, positive alternatives for free time.

- Teach children basic strategies for personal safety to prevent violence and reduce their risk of victimization.
  - Help them learn and practice common courtesies. "Please," "thank you," "excuse me," and "I'm sorry" help ease tensions that can lead to violence.
  - Emphasize the importance of being drug free. Research shows use of alcohol and other drugs is closely linked with violence, including the use of guns and other weapons.
  - Encourage children to stick with friends who steer clear of violence and drugs. Make your home a comfortable place for these kids to gather; help them find positive, enjoyable things to do.
  - Remind children of simple self-protection rules—not to go anywhere with someone they (and you) don't know and trust; how and when to respond to phone calls and visitors if you are unavailable, how to deal with adults (or other children) who approach or touch them inappropriately, what are safe routes to favorite neighborhood destinations.
  - Rehearse what to do in urgent situations, like finding a weapon or being approached inappropriately by a stranger or seeing something wrong happen.
- Help your children to both learn and practice ways to keep arguments from becoming violent. On page 18, McGruff and Scruff show how kids can "chill it out, talk it out, walk away, or get help from a grown-up" for starters. Act out scenes with your children so you can both practice ways to settle disagreements without violence.

Turn off the violence

It started in a Minneapolis suburb. Two people wondered what it would be like if, for one day, everyone would just refuse to be entertained by violence. No violent music, no violent movies or videos or TV shows or computer games. The idea grew quickly. Within a year, Turn Off the Violence Day had spread throughout the metropolitan area. Schools, police departments, mental and public health agencies, religious groups, and businesses joined in. Within three years, it had gained national attention and communities around the country picked up on the theme. No censorship is involved. Each individual decides what he or she should avoid. What emerges is thoughtful discussion of how violent messages can shape our thinking and a new awareness of the way violent ideas can creep into our daily lives.

Young people in Oakland and Los Angeles, California, realized that they could be a powerful force to educate their peers about the costs of gun violence, ways to prevent it, and how to spread the word that gun violence is not cool. Teens on Target, all of whose members have been touched by firearms violence, train others their age and younger in preventing firearms violence, work on promoting positive alternatives and opportunities, and educate adults in the community about what they believe is

Teens target gun violence

required to reduce firearms deaths and injuries. "Our solution," one youth explained, "is to give opportunities to young people so they won't even want to use guns." Speaking from personal experience, these teens bring zeal and commitment to their task and credibility to their messages. They reach and teach thousands of youth and adults annually. The program gets support from a statewide anti-violence agency, YOUTH ALIVE!

- Use news reports and other everyday examples to help older children learn how violence affects the community and their own lives. Let them know that teens are more frequently victimized by crimes—both violent crimes and property crimes—than any other age group. Help them think about the costs of crime and the benefits of prevention.
- Encourage young people to tackle the problem. Urge them to find out:
  - how they can learn simple strategies to prevent crime against themselves and their friends;
  - how groups can settle disagreements without using fists or weapons; and
  - what drug-free, alcohol-free positive activities are available for teens and how these can be improved to attract even more young people.

Building a safer neighborhood

e and our families cannot be safe if our neighborhoods are riddled with violence. Research shows that there's less crime where communities are working together. Help your neighborhood become—or stay—healthy.

- Get to know your neighbors. You can't do it alone.
- Start, join, or reactivate a Neighborhood Watch or Block Watch. Include discussions of ways neighbors can watch out for situations that might involve children in or threaten them with violence. Consider starting a formal block parent program such as McGruff House so that children will have reliable, recognizable places to go in the neighborhood if they feel threatened, bullied, or scared.
- Talk with other adults in the neighborhood about how fights among children should be handled. Who should step in? How? Under what conditions? Make sure children in the neighborhood know that adults are prepared to help stop any form of violence.
- Share information on basic child protection from this booklet or other good sources. Help each other learn about signs of drug abuse and gangs, along with where to go for help in your community to address these problems.
- Agree on what a "trusted adult" will do for children in the neighborhood in case of troubling situations—being threatened, finding a gun or drugs, being approached by a stranger.
- Get to know and encourage the kids in your neighborhood. Many young people say that carrying weapons gives them a sense of power—a sense you can help them get in far more positive ways.

Getting help for problems

Many communities have information and referral services that keep extensive records of the government and nongovernment groups that can help address neighborhood issues. These are usually listed in the telephone directory. United Way and similar groups sometimes operate referral services. Local taxpayer and civic associations can often provide information. It's smart to find out in advance who can help with such issues as abandoned cars, dangerous intersections, broken or inadequate street lighting, overgrown or littered vacant lots, deteriorated housing, and the like. A handy chart on page 19 can help you and neighbors find help fast. Work together on filling it in; share it with the whole neighborhood.

Mothers reach out

A group of mothers in Richmond, Washington, decided that by working with other mothers around the country they could help stop the violence that was taking away their children's freedom —even their lives. They organized as Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) and began educating themselves and others, asking for policy changes, and working with others in the community who shared their goals. Teenagers formed school-based groups—Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)—that not only promote nonviolent ways to handle anger and conflict in school settings, but stage violence-free Teen Nights, hold anti-violence poster contests, host forums and speakouts against violence, and sponsor countywide anti-violence planning conferences.

Booking up nonviolence

In Hartford, Connecticut, the city's nine branch libraries have become part of the solution to violence problems. Each branch has taken up the challenge to become a center of positive activity for kids in its neighborhood, including acting as homework centers. No new funds were used—libraries were asked to refocus existing resources to tackle this neighborhood need.

- Work together to establish safe conditions in your neighborhood—a physical environment that doesn't invite crime or offer opportunities for violence to brew. With a group of neighbors, scan streets, yards, alleys, playgrounds, ball fields, parks, and other areas. Look with a child's eye; even invite some children to go with you. Ask your police department or sheriff's office if they'll provide pointers or other help.
  - Look for things like overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles or appliances, public play areas blocked from public view, intersections and streets that need lighting or traffic control improvements, unsafe equipment or structures, abandoned buildings, hazards in nearby businesses or commercial areas, and signs of vandalism, especially graffiti.
  - Talk with children in the neighborhood about what worries or scares them and about where and how they have felt threatened by violence. Interview teachers, school staff, crossing guards, and bus aides. Add these concerns to your list.
  - Look around to see what happens to kids between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Are there supervised programs for younger children? Opportunities for teens and preteens to work with children, help retirees, tackle neighborhood problems, get or give help with homework? After-school programs in many areas are located in schools themselves, known most often as Safe Havens or Beacon Schools.
- Work with your neighbors; with the police or sheriff's department and other government agencies like parks, transportation, public works, and highways; and with local elected officials to get dangerous conditions corrected. Recheck the neighborhood periodically—at least once a year—to catch new conditions that need attention.

- Start a discussion of neighborhood views on weapons in the home, use of toy weapons by children in play, children and violent entertainment, and how arguments should be settled. Knowing that parents agree on what's acceptable makes it easier to insist on these standards for all children. If some people hold different views, at least be clear about what rules you'll enforce in your home and for your children.
- Be sure you know where and how to report potentially violent situations or concerns about conditions in your neighborhood, or about conditions that could lead to violence. Ask your police department—especially your community policing officer—for help in identifying what to report, when, to whom, and how.
- Consider an event that lets children turn in weapons, especially those that might be mistaken for real firearms, in exchange for public thank-yous, donated nonviolent toys, books, or coupons from local merchants.
- If there's a family facing problems in your neighborhood, reach out in friendship and support. Sometimes people just need to know that they can talk to someone who's concerned. Offer to take on routine chores, to babysit, to provide transportation, or just to listen.
- Recognize that it's already your problem if violence is about to erupt in your neighborhood.
- Learn about hotlines, crisis centers, and other help available to victims of crime. Find out how you can help those who are touched by violence to recover as quickly and completely as possible.
- If you see a crime—or something you suspect might be a crime—report it. Agree to testify if needed.

Police, schools partner to teach firearm safety

Police in Baltimore County, Maryland, reasoned that firearm safety was no less important than traffic safety and designed a one-hour lesson plan for third graders that they now teach in 90 percent of the county's public and private schools. Short talks are mixed with role playing to help emphasize what kids should do if they find a suspected gun (toy or real), how to resist peer pressure to play with guns, and where to turn for help. In less than one year, two children found and properly reported weapons, saying they knew what to do because of the program. Both the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (STAR Curriculum) and the National Rifle Association (Eddie the Eagle) sponsor courses that address gun violence prevention among young people.

Strengthening the community

Violence anywhere in the community affects all of the community. By working on community-wide anti-violence efforts, you are protecting yourself, your family, and your neighborhood. Equally important, community policies and regulations can boost neighborhood violence prevention measures.

- Work to build community standards and expectations that reject violence and other crimes. All kinds of groups—civic clubs, houses of worship, social clubs, the school system, professional associations, employee groups and unions, business groups, and government agencies—can sponsor educational efforts, conduct forums, develop community service messages for media, and create community-wide networks to prevent or reduce violence.
- Emphasize prevention as the preferred way to deal with violence. Ask what schools, law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, libraries, workplaces, religious institutions, child protective agencies, and others are doing to prevent—not just react to—violence. What policies do they have to prevent weapons-related violence? How can they help the community? The checklist on page 20 can help.
- Make sure that adequate services are available for victims of violence and other crimes—including help in following their cases through court, if necessary, and in recovering from physical, emotional, and financial losses.
- Enlist those familiar with the costs of violence—parole and probation officers, judges, doctors, emergency room staffs, victims and survivors (especially youth), local and

California statewide task force urges action

Terming firearms a "public health crisis," the Policy Council on Violence Prevention established by the California Attorney General has recommended sweeping changes in that state's gun laws and vigorous enforcement of laws now on the books. Proposals include banning the manufacture of Saturday Night Special-style handguns in the state, mandating that gun manufacturers build in or provide child safety devices on all firearms sold in the state, requiring that all gun dealers register with the local police or sheriff's department, and launching an educational campaign to promote firearms safety.

state legislators and chief executives, youth workers, and others—in pushing for prevention strategies and educating the public about their effectiveness. Personal testimony can be powerfully persuasive.

- Make sure your community offers ways people can learn about anger management, conflict mediation, and other nonviolent ways to handle problems.
- Find out what positive, enjoyable opportunities there are for young people to have fun in your community. What services are there for kids facing problems? What programs help kids of various ages spend the critical 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. hours (when the largest numbers are without adult supervision) in safe, productive ways?
- Establish policies that reduce danger from weapons, especially firearms. Make safe storage of firearms a community expectation, even a law. Ensure that licensing laws are rigorously enforced. Some states and communities have outlawed sale of weapons to those under 18 or 21. Others have imposed age restrictions on permits to carry concealed weapons. In at least one state, conviction of a firearm violation can cost a young driver his or her license.
- Work with police to help community residents get rid of unwanted weapons through turn-ins, "amnesty days," and even buybacks. Join forces with other community groups and government agencies to publicize, finance, and staff these events.
- Learn your state and local laws on firearms. Insist that these laws be enforced vigorously but fairly. Support police, prosecutors, judges, and other local officials who enforce laws designed to prevent gun violence.
- Encourage local and state resources to go toward both prevention and enforcement.

In San Antonio, Texas, a year-long planning process brought dozens of civic leaders together and led to a 57-point plan to address crime problems in the community. Energized residents and leaders turned that plan into action, increasing services to troubled youth, involving businesses in prevention

Comprehensive planning pays

strategies, devising public education campaigns, engaging schools in teaching conflict management and mediation skills, and more. The city, within a year after implementation had started, saw a 20 percent drop in reported crime.

The Missing Peace, Inc., a community-based group that encompasses the entire Washington, DC, metropolitan area, has conducted gun turn-ins throughout the area in cooperation with the region's police departments and sheriff's offices. Providing a way for people to dispose safely of unwanted firearms not only reduces risks of accidents,

Buybacks benefit children's safety, health

thefts, and assaults; each weapon turned in results in $25 donated by a local business alliance to the local children's hospital's division of child protection.

In Oklahoma, parents can be fined if their child brings a weapon to school. In North Carolina, failure to store firearms safely in homes where children are present can result in prosecution and fines. Twenty-one states have enacted laws mandating gun-free school zones and imposing sharply increased penal-

States act against gun violence

ties for firearms possession or use in such areas. Florida and Maryland are among the states that have set up special statewide organizations to help address school-related violence, including gun use. More than two dozen states have increased judicial or prosecutorial discretion to try youth involved in especially violent offenses as adults.

- Insist that local law or regulations require that confiscated or surrendered weapons be melted down rather than auctioned off or sold to dealers.
- Make sure that local laws mandate the most secure possible storage of any firearm stored in a private home.
- Use Crimestoppers, a similar hotline system, or even 911 to encourage reporting of illegal weapons.
- Reach out to educate the whole community about ways to stop or prevent violence. Find out what's going on now and support it. Help start what's needed. Some ideas:
  - Promote public service advertising that offers anti-violence tips or highlights local services. Call and encourage stations to air the messages; compliment them when they do.
  - Develop and distribute widely a directory of community anti-violence programs and services. Get several groups to cooperate in this effort. Include programs to help kids headed for trouble.
  - Help spread the news about available violence prevention training and programs through groups you belong to, your workplace, and other local institutions. Invite speakers on violence prevention to talk to your club or organization.
  - Participate in public forums that allow residents to talk with elected and appointed leaders about violence prevention needs.
- Work with business groups and individual businesses to develop workplace violence prevention programs that include employee training, anti-violence procedures, and physical security measures. Have explicit, written policies about possession of firearms in or on the worksite.

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- Talk with school personnel, juvenile officers, and youth workers to find out the nature and extent of gangs or "wanna-be" groups in your community. Support gang prevention and intervention programs. Volunteer to help keep kids out of gangs.
- Work with schools, colleges, employers, civic and social clubs, religious organizations, and professional associations to create the widest possible array of resources to discourage violence. Make sure that services are accessible to those who need them most, consumer-friendly, and confidential if necessary.
- Put anti-violence policies in place in your state or community through laws or regulations. Weapons control policies can include ammunition taxes, safe storage laws, ownership restrictions, laws limiting weapons in public places, zoning requirements for firearm sales, and more.
- Talk with school administrators about anti-violence policies and particularly about policies to reduce possession of weapons in or near schools. Your community may want to establish gun-free zones around schools or parks.
- Urge adoption of anti-violence courses that help children learn ways to manage anger without using fists or weapons. *Second Step*, from The Committee for Children, *Resolving Conflict Creatively*, from Educators for Social Responsibility, and *We Can Work It Out!*, created through Teens, Crime, and the Community, are only three of many such courses.
- Enlist children from elementary grades to senior high in solving the violence problems in the school and community. Encourage them to teach violence prevention to younger children, reach out to educate peers, work with adults on community-wide problems, and identify and tackle community conditions that they are concerned about.

Enforcement prevents violence

In Kansas City, Missouri, police selected an 80-block area hard-hit by gun violence for specialized enforcement. In this area, which had a gun homicide rate 20 times the national average, a specially trained group of police dedicated their energy to checking for firearms in the course of their duties. They worked 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. seven days a week. Careful attention was paid to ensuring that residents' constitutional rights were protected. Results were dramatic—gun seizures increased by 64 percent; gun-related crime dropped 49 percent. There were no increases in crime in the surrounding area and there was no similar drop in crime in a comparable area elsewhere in the city.

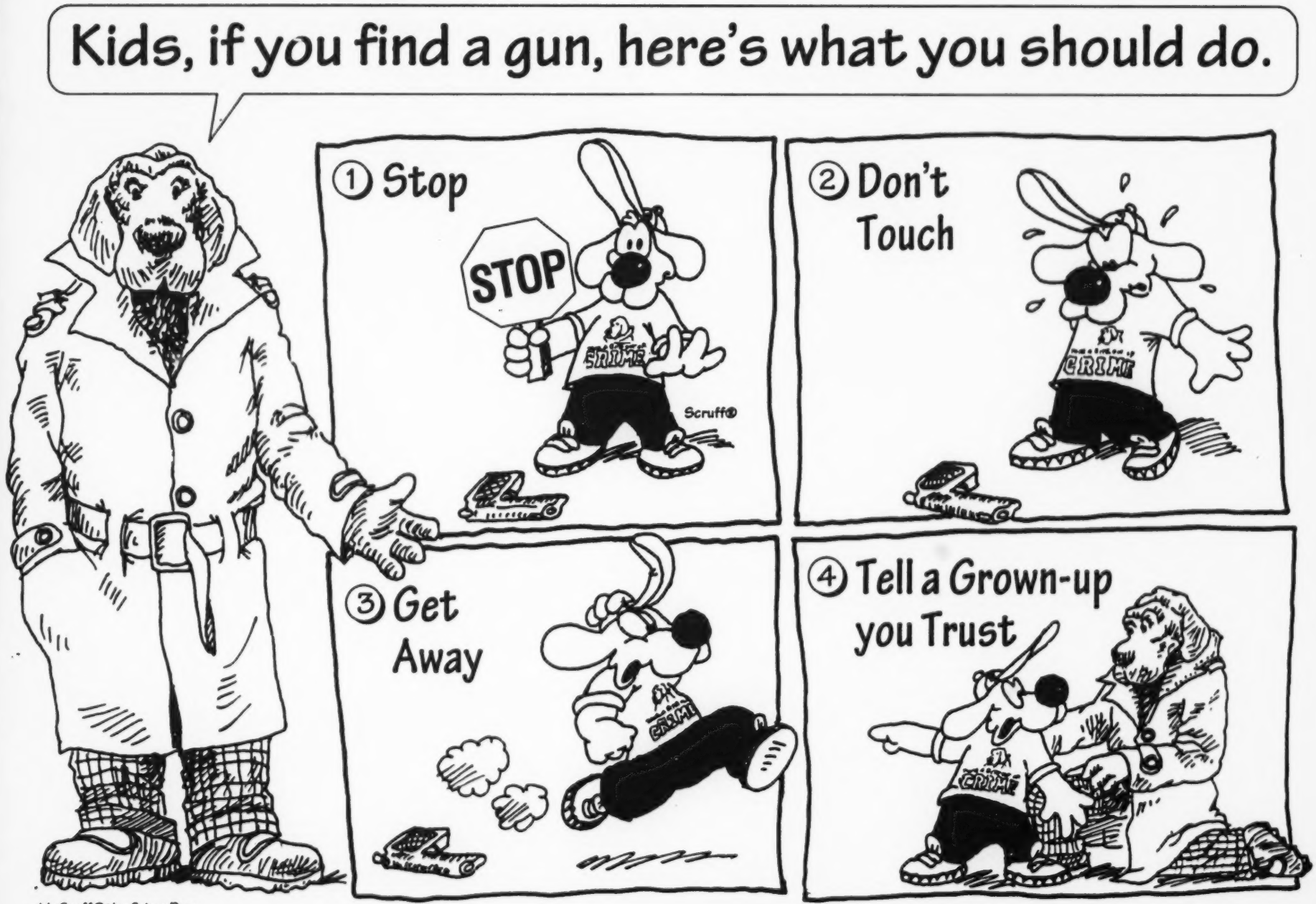
Community reports kids with guns

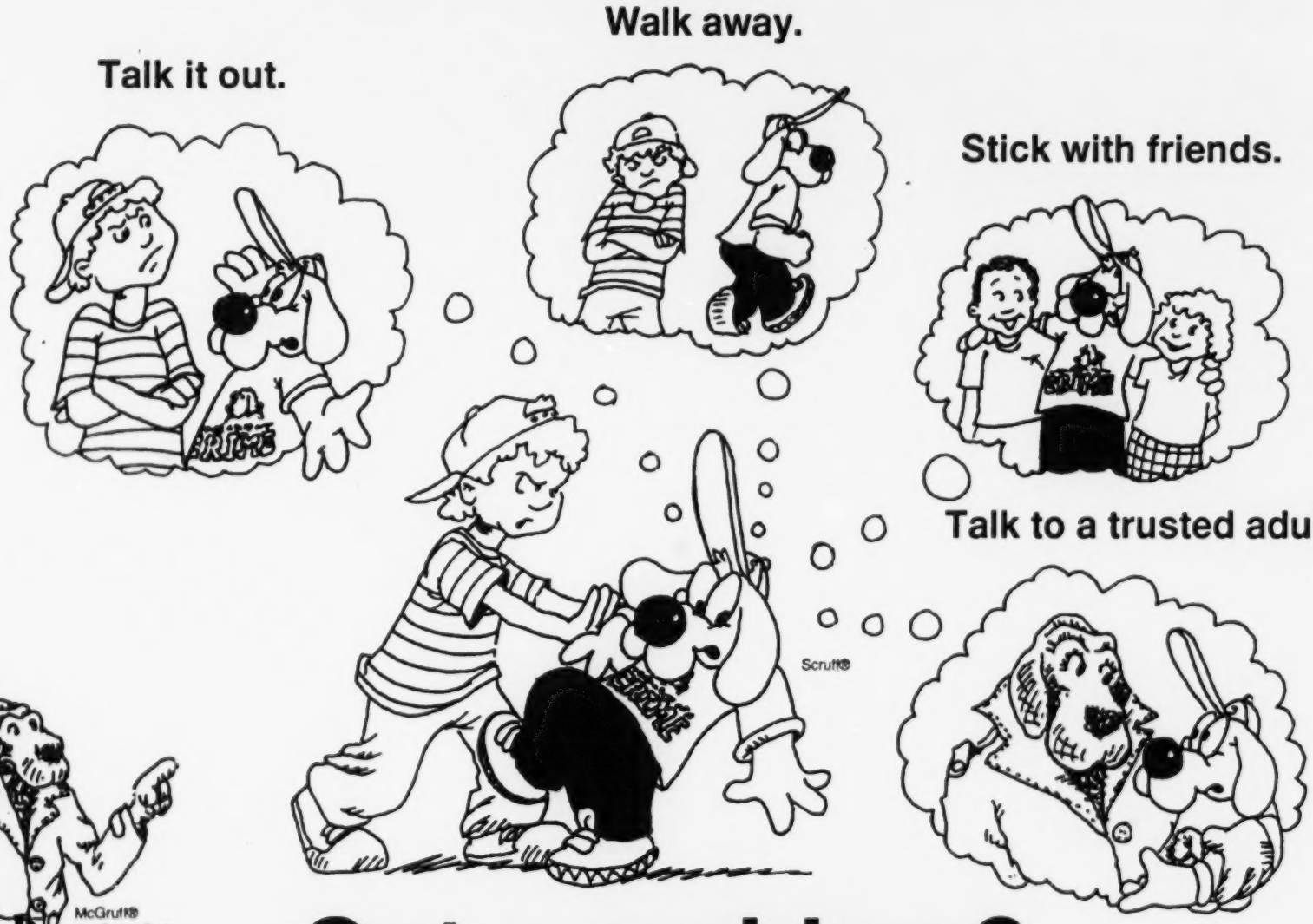
Civic leaders in Mobile, Alabama, concerned about sharp increases in weapons incidents in schools, conducted a campaign in 1992 to educate the community and get weapons out of the hands of kids. "Kid With a Gun? Call 911" used billboards, bumper stickers, news stories, and public transit ads to highlight the consequences of youth handgun possession and remind adults of their responsibility for children's—and the community's—safety. Law enforcement authorities agreed to respond immediately to any call about a kid in possession of a gun.

Partnership reduces violence risk

ADT Security Systems, Inc., has provided "panic alarms" for women severely threatened by domestic violence. In participating communities, local officials determine those women at greatest risk, and ADT places the alarms in the women's homes. Using the alarm immediately summons help to deal with the abuser. Participating women must have court orders of protection and must agree to prosecute the offender to the fullest extent of the law. The AWARE™ program is free to participating communities.

- Volunteer to mentor young people who need positive support from adults. Programs ranging from Big Brothers and Big Sisters to Adopt-a-School include mentoring as a central ingredient.
- Protect domestic violence victims (and their children) through policies as well as laws that offer them prompt and meaningful response to calls for help and appropriate legal recourse.
- Work with others in your community to develop comprehensive, coordinated plans that direct civic resources to deal with immediate symptoms of violence, help neighborhoods strengthen themselves, and work on problems that cause violence. Enlist all kinds of groups; compare notes to avoid duplicating efforts and to benefit from each other's know-how.


Kids, if you find a gun, here's what you should do.
① Stop
STOP
Scruff®
② Don't Touch
③ Get Away
④ Tell a Grown-up you Trust
McGruff®the Crime Dog



Got a problem?

Here are four ways to work it out without fighting.
Can you think of more?

Link-ups and referrals

Because you will be working on many issues and with many people, it might be helpful to keep key phone numbers of organizations that are working in partnership with you or that can provide help for problems you may encounter. Feel free to use this checklist as a starter to create your own, adding agencies and organizations appropriate to your community.

Child Protection _____

Community Center _____

Drug Treatment _____

Family Services _____

Information & Referral _____

Mediation Services _____

Mental Health _____

Job Training _____

Juvenile Services _____

Police Department (Nonemergency) _____

Public Health Agency _____

Public Works _____

Recreation & Parks _____

School System _____

Social Services _____

Victim Assistance _____

Volunteer Center _____

Youth Groups _____

Youth Services _____

Hotlines _____

_____

_____

Checklist for violence prevention

Do my family and I

- ☐ understand the dangers of weapons, especially firearms, and how to prevent them?
- ☐ talk about the costs—personal and financial—of violence?
- ☐ think carefully about the kinds of entertainment we watch or hear?
- ☐ know and practice ways to settle disputes without violence?
- ☐ understand and practice basic self-protection strategies?

Do my neighbors and I

- ☐ know each other reasonably well?
- ☐ work together to make our neighborhood safe for children?
- ☐ agree on how and when to step in to prevent kids' quarrels from becoming violent?
- ☐ discuss how we feel about weapons, including firearms, and what rules and standards we agree on?
- ☐ help each other by joining and taking an active role in Neighborhood Watch?
- ☐ know that there are good ways for our children to spend their time and energy after school?
- ☐ identify, discuss, and solve (or get help to solve) troubling conditions in our area?
- ☐ work with police, school officials, civic groups, and others to address larger issues for the community?

Does my community

- ☐ have and enforce sound laws and regulations for secure weapons storage and against weapons violence?
- ☐ provide safe ways for residents to dispose of unwanted weapons?
- ☐ actively provide resources and know-how to help residents learn how to solve problems without violence?
- ☐ provide mentoring and other outreach services to troubled youth and families?
- ☐ enlist young people in addressing violence problems
- ☐ coordinate community groups to develop comprehensive anti-violence strategies and plans?
- ☐ offer an attractive array of both family-oriented and youth-focused events?
- ☐ have clear standards that reject violence as a presence in the community?

Add your own reminders here!

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Resources

There are hundreds of groups across the nation working to reduce and prevent violence. New groups are being formed all the time, and no one list could cover them all. This list notes some groups dealing with aspects of every area the booklet addresses. It indicates in a general way the kinds of work each group is doing. Please get in touch with the groups that interest you to get up-to-date information on programs, materials, training, local affiliates, and other assistance. Also check with local affiliates of organizations that belong to the Crime Prevention Coalition. Member groups are listed on the inside back cover.

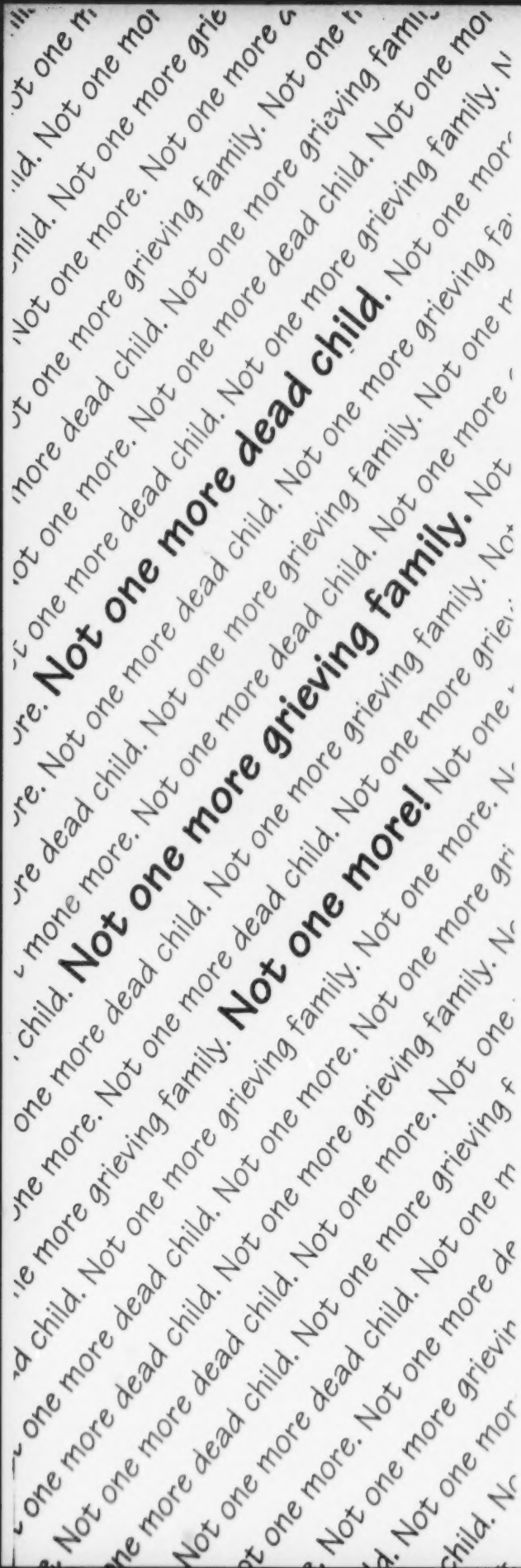
			Statistics, research	Anti-violence curricula	Youth program ideas	Community program ideas	Policies, regulations, laws	School-related initiatives	Professionals in community	Gun-related issues	Media literacy	State/local affiliates
American Academy of Pediatrics 141 North West Point Boulevard, Elk Grove, IL 60007	708-228-5005	Fax 708-228-5097	■		■			■	■			■
American Bar Association 740 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049	202-662-1680	Fax 202-662-1032	■			■	■	■	■			■
American Medical Association Department of Mental Health, 515 North State Street Chicago, IL 60610	312-464-5066	Fax 312-464-5841	■		■	■	■	■	■			■
Association of Junior Leagues International 660 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016-3241	212-683-1515	Fax 212-481-7196			■	■		■	■			■
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America 230 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107	215-665-7762	Fax 215-567-0394			■	■						■
Boys & Girls Clubs of America 1230 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309	404-815-5700	Fax 404-815-5787		■	■							■
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms US Department of Treasury, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20226	202-927-7777	Fax 202-927-8112	■	■			■		■			
Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850	800-688-4252	Fax 301-251-5212	■	■	■	■	■		■			
Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850	800-723-3277	Fax 301-251-5212	■				■		■			
Center for Media Literacy 1962 South Shenandoah, Los Angeles, CA 90034	310-559-2944	Fax 310-559-9396	■						■	■		
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence 1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005	202-289-7319	Fax 202-408-1851	■	■			■		■			
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's **National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information** 1146 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852	800-729-6686		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, Campus Box 442, Boulder, CO 80309-0442	303-492-1032	Fax 303-443-3297	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333	404-639-3311	Fax 404-639-1623	■	■	■		■		■			
Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20001	202-638-2952	Fax 202-638-4004				■		■				■
Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001	202-628-8787		■		■	■	■		■			■
Committee for Children 2203 Airport Way South, #500, Seattle, WA 98134-2027	800-634-4449	Fax 206-343-1445		■	■	■		■	■			
Community Relations Service U.S. Department of Justice, 5550 Friendship Boulevard Suite 330, Chevy Chase, MD 20815	301-492-5929	Fax 301-492-5984			■	■	■					

Resources Continued

			Statistics, research	Anti-violence curricula	Youth program ideas	Community program ideas	Policies, regulations, laws	School-related initiatives	Professionals in community	Gun-related issues	Media literacy	State/local affiliates
CrimeStoppers International, Inc. PO Box 30413, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0413	800-245-0009				■	■						■
D.A.R.E. America PO Box 2090, Los Angeles, CA 90051	800-223-DARE			■	■			■		■		■
Education Development Center, Inc. 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02158	617-969-7100	Fax 617-969-5979		■	■	■		■		■		
Educators for Social Responsibility 23 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02130	617-492-1764			■				■				
Family Violence Prevention Center 383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94103	415-252-8900	Fax 415-252-8991	■	■		■	■					
Foundation to Improve Television 50 Congress Street, Suite 925, Boston, MA 02109	617-523-5520	Fax 617-523-4619	■				■				■	
Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan 2300 Children's Plaza, #88, Chicago, IL 60614	312-880-4000 (ask for HELP network)	Fax 312-880-6615	■				■		■	■		
International Association of Chiefs of Police 515 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	703-836-6767	Fax 703-836-4543				■	■		■			■
HUD Drug Information and Strategy Clearinghouse PO Box 6424, Rockville, MD 20850	800-245-2691		■	■	■	■						
Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850	800-638-8736	Fax 301-251-5212	■	■	■	■				■		
Kids Count 701 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202	410-547-6600	Fax 410-547-6624	■				■			■		
The Missing Peace 708 Cloverly Street, Suite 200, Cloverly, MD 20905	301-879-0561			■	■	■		■		■		
Mothers Against Violence Everywhere 901 Fairview Avenue, North, Suite A-170, Seattle, WA 98109	206-343-0676	800-897-7696 Fax 206-292-7930		■	■	■		■		■		■
National Association for Mediation in Education (NAME) 205 Hampshire House, Box 33635, Amherst, MA 01003-2462	413-545-2462			■	■	■		■				
National Center for Juvenile Justice 710 5th Avenue, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219	412-227-6950	Fax 412-227-6955	■		■	■				■		
National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health 2000 15th Street North, Suite 701, Arlington, VA 22201-2617	703-524-7802	Fax 703-524-9335	■	■	■	■						
National Coalition on Television Violence 33290 West 14 Mild Road, #498, West Bloomfield, MI 48322	810-489-3177	Fax 810-489-8696	■				■				■	
National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60604	312-663-3520	Fax 312-939-8962	■	■	■							■
National Conference 71 5th Avenue, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10003	212-206-0006		■	■	■	■						■
National Conference of State Legislators 1560 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202	303-830-2200	Fax 303-863-8003	■			■	■			■		
National Crime Prevention Council 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20006-3817	202-466-6272	Fax 202-296-1356	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Resources Continued

			Statistics, research	Anti-violence curricula	Youth program ideas	Community program ideas	Policies, regulations, laws	School-related initiatives	Professionals in community	Gun-related issues	Media literacy	State/local affiliates
National Criminal Justice Reference Service Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849	800-851-3420		■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
National Governors Association 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 267, Washington, DC 20001	202-624-5320	Fax 202-624-5313	■		■	■	■					
National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law 711 G Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003	202-546-6644	Fax 202-546-6649		■	■			■				■
National Institute for Dispute Resolution 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036	202-466-4764	Fax 202-466-4769		■	■	■	■	■				■
National League of Cities 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20004	202-626-3010	Fax 202-626-3043	■		■	■	■			■		■
National McGruff House Network 1879 South Main, Suite 180, Salt Lake City, UT 84115	801-486-8768				■	■		■				
National Organization for Victim Assistance 1757 Park Road, NW, Washington, DC 20010	202-232-6682	800-TRY-NOVA Fax 202-462-2255			■	■	■					■
National PTA 330 North Wabash, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60611-3690	312-670-6782	Fax 312-670-6783		■	■			■		■		■
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence 6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2778	800-537-2238	Fax 717-545-9456	■	■		■						■
National Rifle Association 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036	202-828-6000		■		■					■		■
National School Boards Association 1680 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	703-838-6722		■	■	■			■				■
National School Safety Center 4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290, Westlake Village, CA 91362	805-373-9977	Fax 805-373-9277	■	■	■	■		■		■		
National Sheriffs' Association 1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3490	703-836-7827	Fax 703-519-8567			■	■	■					■
National Urban League 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021	212-310-9000	Fax 212-593-8250	■	■	■	■	■		■			■
National Victim Center 2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201	703-276-2880	Fax 703-276-2889	■		■	■	■					
Parents' Music Resource Center 1500 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209	703-527-9463		■		■	■	■				■	
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, CA 94110	415-285-1793		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	
Partners Against Youth Gun Violence c/o Crime Prevention Division, Seattle Police Department, 610 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1886	206-684-7929			■	■	■	■	■				
Turn Off the Violence PO Box 27558, Minneapolis, MN 55427	612-593-8041				■	■	■	■			■	
YOUTH ALIVE! Summit Medical Center, 3012 Summit Avenue, Suite 3670, Oakland, CA 94609	510-444-6191	Fax 510-444-6195		■	■	■		■		■		
Youth Crime Watch of America Dadeland Towers North, Suite 320, 9200 South Dadeland Boulevard, Miami, FL 33156	305-670-2409	Fax 305-670-3805		■	■			■				■



This booklet is only a starter. There really *is* something everyone can do to stop the violence. Have you decided how you'll help?

The National Crime Prevention Council offers several other free publications and a catalog of low-cost materials that offer ideas on how to get started or how to strengthen local efforts.

To get free single copies of the publications below or a copy of the catalog, simply call 1-800-NCPC-911 or write NCPC Fulfillment, PO Box 1, 100 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010.

Stop the Violence, Start Something (item J22)
Packing a host of ideas into 12 pages, this booklet offers ten things each for kids, adults, and neighborhood groups to do.

Getting Together To Fight Crime (item J23)
A 32-page, information-filled guide to organizing neighbors for action on local problems, with how-tos on everything, from first meeting to community partnerships.

Accompañados y sin miedo/Not Alone, Not Afraid (item SP1)
In both Spanish and English, this booklet outlines key personal crime prevention strategies as well as tips and strategies for organizing neighborhoods.

Your Inside Look at Crime Prevention (item J20)
This 24-page booklet describes the basics of crime prevention, explains the need for individual and community action, and highlights individual and community actions that can help stop crime.

For kids, McGruff and his nephew Scruff offer two exciting comic-activity books. One is translated into Spanish. Write for single copies as shown below:

Scruff Beats the Scary Streets
McGruff, Chicago, IL 60652

Scruff vence el peligro de la calle
McGruff en español, Chicago, IL 60652

More Adventures With Scruff
Scruff-McGruff, Chicago, IL 60652

The Crime Prevention Coalition

State Members

Alabama Crime Prevention Network
Arizona Crime Prevention Association
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Arkansas Crime Information Center
California Attorney General's Office
California Crime Prevention Officers Association
California Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning
Colorado Crime Prevention Association
Crime Prevention Association of Connecticut
Florida Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs
Florida Crime Prevention Association
Georgia Crime Prevention Association
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Hawaii Department of the Attorney General
Idaho Crime Prevention Association
Idaho Department of Law Enforcement
Illinois Attorney General's Office
Illinois Crime Prevention Association
Indiana Crime Prevention Coalition
Iowa Crime Prevention Association
Iowa Department of Public Safety
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Kansas Crime Prevention Association
Northern Kentucky Prevention Information Network
Maine Crime Prevention Association
Maryland Crime Prevention Association
Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute
Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association
Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council
Crime Prevention Association of Michigan
Minnesota Crime Prevention Practitioners, Inc.
Minnesota Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention
Mississippi Crime Prevention Association
Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning
Missouri Crime Prevention Association
Missouri Department of Public Safety
Nebraska Crime Commission
Nebraska Crime Prevention Association
Nevada Office of the Attorney General
New Jersey Crime Prevention Officers' Association, Inc.
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
New Mexico Crime Prevention Association
New York Division of Criminal Justice Services
New York State Crime Prevention Coalition
North Carolina Crime Prevention Officers' Association
North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
North Dakota Office of the Attorney General
Ohio Crime Prevention Association
Ohio Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Services
Oklahoma Department of Public Safety
Crime Prevention Association of Oregon
Oregon Board on Public Safety Standards and Training
Crime Prevention Association of Western Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Pennsylvania Crime Prevention Officers Association
Rhode Island Crime Prevention Association
South Carolina Department of Public Safety
South Dakota Police Chiefs Association
Texas Crime Prevention Association
Texas Governor's Office
Utah Council for Crime Prevention
Vermont State Police
Virginia Crime Prevention Association
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Washington Crime Prevention Association
Washington State Attorney General's Office
West Virginia Criminal Justice and Highway Safety Office
Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Department of Justice
Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

National Agencies

The Advertising Council, Inc.
American Association of Retired Persons
American Crime Prevention Association
American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
American Probation and Parole Association
American Society for Industrial Security
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Crime Stoppers International, Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Girl Scouts of the USA
Institute of Criminal Justice Studies
Insurance Information Institute
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of Credit Card Investigators
International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training
International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety
International City/County Management Association
International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners
International Union of Police Associations
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Attorneys General
National Association of Broadcasters
National Association of Counties
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Police Athletic Leagues
National Association of Town Watch
National Council of La Raza
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
National Crime Prevention Council
National Crime Prevention Institute
National Criminal Justice Association
National District Attorneys Association
National Exchange Club
National Family Partnership
National 4-H Council
National Governors' Association
National League of Cities
National Network of Runaway and Youth Services
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
National Organization for Victim Assistance
National Recreation and Park Association
National Sheriffs' Association
National Urban League, Inc.
National Victim Center
Police Executive Research Forum
Service Corps of Retired Executives Association
U.S. Conference of Mayors

Federal Agencies

Department of Defense
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
General Services Administration
U.S. Department of Air Force
U.S. Department of Army
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
- Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- National Institute of Justice
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Office for Victims of Crime

U.S. Department of Navy
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Postal Inspection Service

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Washington, DC 20006-3817

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